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Under a 25-year agreement valued at nearly \$1 billion, a California community choice aggregator will purchase 200 MW of 8-hour energy storage from Hydrostor's planned 500 MW facility.

Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) said its 200 MW share of the project will help the agency meet its goal of providing 100% clean and renewable electricity by 2030 to its 447,000 customers between Santa Cruz and Santa Barbara counties. The project is located outside Rosamond in Kern County, and known as Willow Rock.

"Retiring fossil fuels requires tremendous amounts of energy storage and that will require developing new technologies and improvements to existing technologies," said Robert Shaw, chief operating officer of 3CE. "In pushing the envelope, we are clearing the path toward reliability and reduced emissions."

3CE has executed 19 power purchase and energy storage agreements since its formation in 2017. The agency currently has commitments for 856 MW of clean and renewable generation and 285 MW of energy storage capacity. Five of these projects came online last year, currently serving 22% of the agency's load.

Seems to me that the system could be used in conjunction with solar thermal heat stored in a medium like sand, gravel, or molten salts to give a boost to the thermal expansion and get out more electricity than you put in!

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Approval is being sought for a 400MW advanced compressed air energy storage (A-CAES) project with eight hours of storage to be built in California by technology provider Hydrostor.

The Canada-headquartered company is the first in the world to have built an operating commercial A-CAES facility, a much smaller 1.75MW project in Goderich, Ontario, with about 10MWh capacity based on its own technologies.

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Hydrostor has now filed an Application for Certification with the California Energy Commission for the 400MW / 3,200MWh Pecho Energy Storage Center it wants to build in the state's San Luis Obispo County. Application for Certification (AFC) is the standard licensing process for power plants 50MW or greater that fall within the commission's jurisdiction.

The long-duration project would be bigger than even the gigawatt-hour scale lithium-ion battery storage systems that are being built in California, at double the size of the 1,600MWh Moss Landing Energy Storage Facility that was completed earlier this year. California lithium-ion battery plants also have an upper limit of four hours" duration for which they can be economical to build while capturing market opportunities.

The A-CAES technology developed by Hydrostor uses electricity to compress air which is then stored in a large underground cavern. Heat produced by the compression process is simultaneously run off as thermal storage.

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